

REMARKS

Clarification with regard to the Information Disclosure Statement is request. In particular, the Office Action does not make clear if the Examiner believes that one or more than one of the eight foreign documents are considered illegible. In this connection, the file of the undersigned contains legible copies, and we assume that the filed copies thereof are equally legible.

The objections to Claim 3 has been addressed.

The rejection of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 2 is considered to have been addressed by way of the foregoing amendments. Of course, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned in the event any claim terminology issues remain to be resolved.

The rejection of Claims 1-20 as being unpatentable over Uchida et al. or Tsuchida et al. in view of JP '266 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested in light of the foregoing amendments and following comments.

None of the three cited documents, taken alone or in the hypothetical combination set out in the Office Action, teach or suggest the claimed invention. Even without the foregoing amendments, however, the Office Action

acknowledges that neither the Uchida et al. patent or the Tsuchida et al. patent teach or suggest the claimed invention. For that purpose, the Office relies upon the JP '266 document, in particular Fig. 7.

But Applicants note that the JP '266 document is directed to a divided rotor to reduce torque ripple. To that end, the rotor is in four pieces that move relative to the rotor's circumferential direction. Nothing is taught as relates to an axial length of each piece of the rotor, which is respectively set within a ranges from 0.19L to 0.39L, 0.81L to 0.61L, 0.81L to 0.61L or from 0.19L to 0.39L with four pieces involved. Where six pieces are involved, the axial length of each piece of the rotor in the present invention is respectively set within a range from 0.25L to 1/3L, from 0.50L to 1/3L, from 0/25L to 1/3L, from 0.25L to 1/3L, from 0.50L to 1/3L or from 0.25L to 1/3L, in order to compensate the vibration of the electromagnetic exciting force $F(x)$ and that concept too is not disclosed or even suggested in the JP '266 document.

As to the Uchida et al. and Tsuchida et al. patents, Applicants would further observe that the former merely discloses an electric motor in which a rotor is equally divided into at least four pieces in an axial direction. But the axial lengths of such piece of the one group are equal in order to reduce torque ripple. The present invention seeks to compensate for vibration of the

electromagnetic exciting force $F(x)$, something not addressed in Uchida's et al. structure.

With regard to the Tsuchida et al. stepping motor, Applicants need only note that it does not teach the arrangement of the neighboring pieces to be equivalent to 0, π , 0 and π nor the claimed axial length of each piece of the one group of the rotor in the present invention where vibration of the electromagnetic exciting force in a radial direction is reduced to a minimum.

The Office Action thus does not make out a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Accordingly, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

Serial No. 10/558,366
Amendment Dated: April 3, 2008
Reply to Office Action Mailed: January 3, 2008
Attorney Docket No. 056207.57001US

please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit
Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056207.57001US).

May 5, 2008

Respectfully submitted,



James F. McKeown
Registration No. 25,406

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
JFM:slw

5199968_1.DOC